Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous version of the claims with the following clean version, wherein claims 19 and 27 incorporate new amendments thereto.

9.   A machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network, said program comprising:

a first display step for classifying said input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying said categories on a display as items to be selected; and

a second display step for displaying on said display as items to be selected only said input-output apparatuses classified in a category selected by a user.

10.   A machine readable medium according to claim 9, wherein said second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on said display information indicating whether or not each respective one of said input-output apparatuses is usable.

11.   A machine readable medium according to claim 9, wherein said second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display a map of said network with symbolic marks of said input-output apparatuses on said map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of said input-output apparatuses.

12.   A machine readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said program further includes a step for setting as an apparatus to be used one of said input-output apparatuses represented by one of said symbolic marks as selected by a user.

13.   A machine readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display at locations in close proximity to each one of said symbolic marks representing said input-output apparatuses information indicating whether or not each of said input-output apparatuses is usable.

14.   A machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network, said program comprising:

a first display step for classifying said input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and for displaying on a display as items of selection said pieces of user identification information; and

a second display step for displaying on said display as items of selection only said input-output apparatuses in a category corresponding to a thus displayed user identification information which is selected by a user.

15. A machine readable medium according to claim 14, wherein said second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display information indicating whether or not each of said input-output apparatuses is usable.

16. A machine readable medium according to claim 14, wherein said second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display a map of said network with symbolic marks of said input-output apparatuses on said map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of said input-output apparatuses.

17. A machine readable medium according to claim 16, wherein said program further includes a step for setting as an apparatus to be used one of said input-output apparatuses represented by a corresponding one of said symbolic marks as selected by a user.

18. A machine readable medium according to claim 16, wherein said second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display at locations in close proximity to each one of said symbolic marks representing said image forming apparatuses information indicating whether or not each of said input-output apparatuses is usable.

19. (Three Times Amended) A machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for selecting a desired image forming apparatus from a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network, said program comprising:

a select step for selecting as an output destination one of said image forming apparatuses designated by a user;

a judgment step for judging whether or not said image forming apparatus set at said select step is capable of carrying out printing; and

a display step for displaying on a display, when an outcome of said judgment formed at said judgment step indicates that said image forming apparatus set at said select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of said image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for said image forming apparatus set at said select step.

20. A machine readable medium according to claim 19, wherein said display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display a map of said network with symbolic marks of said image forming apparatuses on said map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of said image forming apparatus.

21. A machine readable medium according to claim 20, wherein said program further includes a step for setting as an output destination an image forming apparatus represented by a corresponding one of said symbolic marks selected by the user.

22. A machine readable medium according to claim 19, wherein said display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display characters describing the name of each of said image forming apparatuses and characters describing a location at which each of said image forming apparatuses is installed.

25. An input-output apparatus selecting method for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network system, said input-output apparatus selecting method comprising:

a step for classifying said input-output apparatuses connected to said network system into a plurality of categories with different functions and for displaying said categories on a display as items to be selected; and

a step for displaying on said display as items to be selected only said input-output apparatuses classified in a category selected by the user.

26. An input-output apparatus selecting method for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network system wherein said apparatuses are cataloged by classifying said apparatuses into groups identified by user identification codes, said input-output apparatus selecting method comprising:

a step for displaying said user identification codes on a display as items to be selected; and

a step for displaying on said display as items to be selected only said input-output apparatuses cataloged in one of said groups identified by one of said user identification codes selected by the user.

27. (Three Times Amended) An image forming apparatus selecting method for selecting a desired image forming apparatus from a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network system, said image forming apparatus selecting method comprising:

a select step for setting as an output destination one of said image forming apparatuses selected by a user;

a judgment step for forming a judgment as to whether or not said image forming apparatus set at said select step is capable of carrying out printing; and

a display step for displaying on a display, when an outcome of said judgment formed at said judgment step indicates that said image forming apparatus set at said select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of said image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for said image forming apparatus set at said select step.

33. A machine readable medium on which is recorded a program written for a network system to which a plurality of input-output apparatuses and a plurality of computers are connected, said program comprising:

a first step for classifying said input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories having different functions and displaying said categories on a display as items to be selected;

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a second step for displaying on said display as items to be selected only said input-output apparatuses corresponding to one of said categories displayed at said first step; and

a third step for specifying as an input-output destination an input-output apparatus selected from said input-output apparatuses displayed at said second step.

34. A machine readable medium according to claim 33, wherein said program further comprises:

a step for displaying on said display a layout image representing locations of said input-output apparatuses;

a step for displaying icons as items of selection over said layout image displayed on said display, each icon representing one of said input-output apparatuses at locations corresponding to actual installation locations of said input-output apparatuses; and

a step for selecting as an input-output destination one of said input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from said icons.

35. A machine readable medium according to claim 33, wherein said program further comprises:

a step for creating a plurality of images or tables each showing installation locations of said input-output apparatuses on layers of different levels forming a hierarchical structure and storing said hierarchical structure;

a step for displaying a high level image or a high level table on one of said layers at a high level in said hierarchical structure wherein said high level image or said high level table shows items of selection; and

a step for displaying a low level image or a low level table on another one of said layers at a level immediately lower than said high level in said hierarchical structure wherein said low level image or said low level table is determined by an item selected from said items of selection shown in said high level image or said high level table.

37. An input-output apparatus specifying method to be adopted in a network system for connecting a plurality of computers and a plurality of input-output apparatuses, said input-output apparatus specifying method comprising: a category displaying step for

classifying said input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and for displaying said categories on a display as items to be selected;

an apparatus displaying step for displaying on said display as items to be selected only those input-output apparatuses in a category selected from said categories displayed at said category displaying step; and

an apparatus specifying means for selecting a desired one of said input-output apparatuses displayed at said apparatus displaying step and for specifying as an input-output destination said selected input-output apparatus.

38.   A machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for a network system connecting a plurality of computers and a plurality of input-output apparatuses, said program comprises:

a user name displaying step for displaying as items of selection the names of users regularly using said network system;

a user name selecting step for selecting one of said names displayed at said user name displaying step;

an input-output apparatus displaying step for displaying as items of selection only said input-output apparatuses associated with one of said users with the name thereof selected at said user name selecting step; and

an input-output apparatus selecting step for selecting as an input-output destination a desired one of said input-output apparatuses displayed at said input-output apparatus displaying step.

39.   A machine readable medium according to claim 38, wherein said user name displaying step further includes a sub-step for displaying the names of said users on a layout diagram along with icons each representing one of said input-output apparatuses.

40.   A machine readable medium according to claim 38, said program further includes:

a step for creating a plurality of images or tables each showing installation locations of said input-output apparatuses on layers at different levels forming a hierarchical structure;

a step for displaying a high level image or a high level table on one of said layers at a high level in said hierarchical structure wherein said high level image or said high level table shows items of selection; and

a step for displaying a low level image or a low level table on another one of said layers at a level immediately lower than said high level in said hierarchical structure wherein said low level image or said low level table is determined by an item selected from said items of selection shown in said high level image or said high level table.

41.   An input-output apparatus specifying method to be adopted in a network system for connecting a plurality of computers and a plurality of input-output apparatuses, said input-output apparatus specifying method comprising:

a user name displaying step for displaying as items of selection the names of users regularly using said network system;

a user name selecting step for selecting one of said names displayed at said user name displaying step;

an input-output apparatus displaying step for displaying as items of selection only said input-output apparatuses associated with one of said users with the name thereof selected at said user name selecting step; and

an input-output apparatus selecting step for selecting as an input-output destination a desired one of said input-output apparatuses displayed at said input-output apparatus displaying step.

56.   A program that can be read by a computer which has a computer execute the steps of:

selecting a first printer, as an output destination of image data, from among a plurality of printers connected to a network;

determining whether said first printer is currently available or not; and

selecting a second printer automatically, from a plurality of printers connected to a network, as a substitute output apparatus in response to the determination that said first printer is not available.

57.   A program according to claim 56, wherein said second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus is located in closest proximity to the user.

58.   A program according to claim 56, wherein said second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus exceeds said first printer in function.

59.   A program according to claim 56, wherein said second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus exceeds said first printer in printing speed.